

# SCOOP™

#BuriedLeads



MAVERICK

RICHARD ASHLEY  
HAMILTON

PABLO ANDRÉS

SIMON ROBINS  
DAVE LANPHEAR



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#BuriedLeads

VOL.2

# SCOOP™

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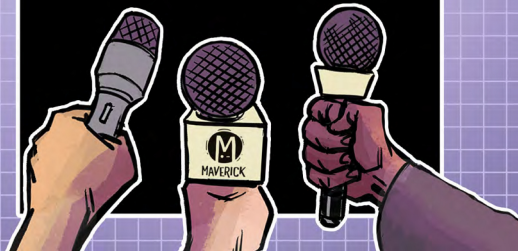
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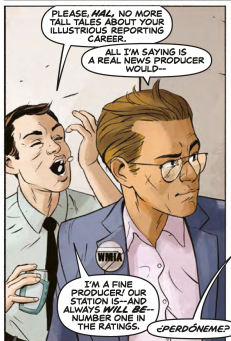
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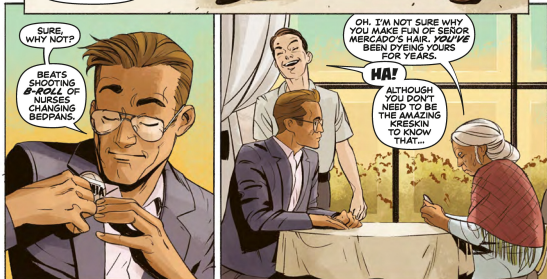
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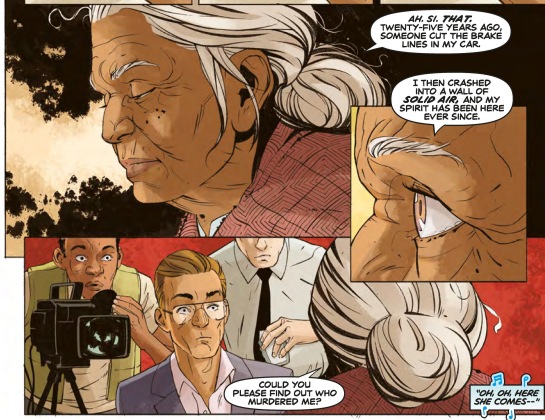
1994

Miami, Florida







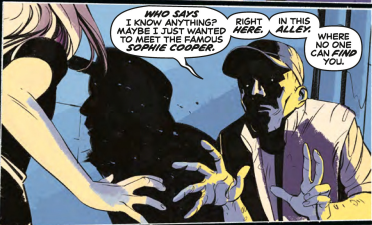
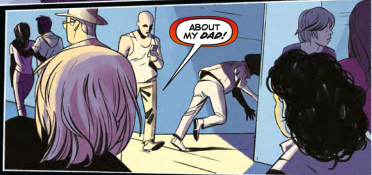




Now  
Miami, Florida

--SHE'S A  
MANEATER!







OH, OH, HERE SHE COMES, WATCH OUT BOY, SHE'LL CHEW YOU UP

"WE WERE GONNA SEE OUR FAVORITE  
HALL & OATES COVER BAND,  
TWO REBELS IN A SHELL--

"--I SCORED TICKETS FOR US,  
NO BIG DEAL--WHEN SOPH'S  
NEWS ALERTS BLEW UP.

"SOME DUDE'S BEEN @-ING HER FOR  
MONTHS, BUT THIS WAS THE FIRST  
TIME HE TAGGED OUR DAD'S BANK.

"SO, I DEVISED A CLEVER RUSE.  
STEP ONE WAS SOPH TWEETING  
ABOUT OUR CONCERT AT THE  
BALL & CHAIN.

"SOPH'S NOT NORMALLY ONE TO  
SHARE PERSONAL STUFF, BUT  
WE KNEW HER CYBER-STALKER  
WOULD SEE IT.

"THEN IT WAS A SIMPLE  
MATTER OF USING NEAR-  
FIELD COMMUNICATION TO  
PING AGAINST ANYBODY  
CLOSE BY WHO FOLLOWS  
@SCOOP-INTERV.

"AND BEFORE YOU  
ASK--YES, THIS IS  
ADVANCED, EVEN FOR  
ME--AND NO, IT'S NOT  
TECHNICALLY 'LEGAL.'

"OBVIOUSLY, MY TRAP WORKED,  
CREEP-O WAS BUSTED, AND  
OUR GPS LOCATION WENT OUT  
TO YOU AND WMIA 7.

♪  
VREEP  
VREEP  
♪

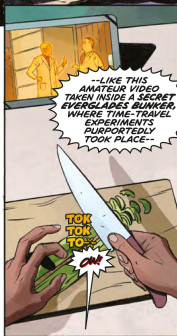
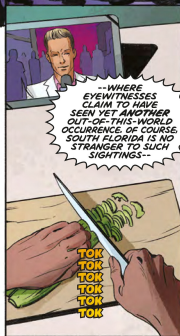
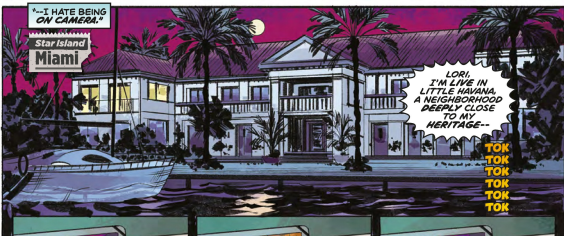
"LIKE I SAID, TOTALLY IN HAND, SAGE.  
BESIDES, SOPH'S BEEN TAKING YOUR  
SELF-DEFENSE CLASSES."











Cooper residence  
Coral Gables



THANKS  
FOR THE LIFT,  
WHIRLY.



THAT'S A  
TEN-FOUR,  
SOPHIE!

WANT  
US TO SCARE  
AWAY THOSE  
VULTURES?



TEMPTING.  
BUT MOST OF  
THE CIRCUS  
IS GONE.

THESE GUYS  
ARE JUST STRAGGLERS  
SNIFFING FOR CLICK-BAIT.



YOU HEARD HER,  
BOYS! LET'S SEE IF  
WE CAN MAKE **LAST**  
**CALL**.

HASTA MAÑANA,  
GANGBUSTERS!



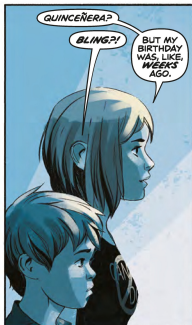
I STILL CAN'T  
BELIEVE THAT  
SANCHEZ-WHATEVER  
GUY, TAKING CREDIT  
FOR YOUR STORY!  
WANNA GET  
EVEN?

NAH. IT'S NOT LIKE HE GOT FOOTAGE  
OF CREEP-O BEAMING UP. EVEN OURS  
IS TOO SCRAMBLED TO POST.

WHICH MIGHT  
BE A **BLESSING**  
IN DISGUISE.

MOM AND  
DAD BARELY  
TOLERATE MY  
INTERNSHIP AS  
IT IS. THE **LAST**  
THING I NEED  
IS THEM--





QUINCEÑERA?

BLING?!

BUT MY BIRTHDAY WAS, LIKE, *WEEKS* AGO.



AND WE FEEL **TERRIBLE** ABOUT THAT, SWEETHEART. IT'S, JUST, WITH EVERYTHING THAT'S BEEN GOING ON--

--WE DIDN'T GET A CHANCE TO PROPERLY CELEBRATE **YOUR** BIG DAY.

BUT NOW THAT YOUR DAD'S NAME IS GETTING **CLEARED**-- ALL THANKS TO WONDERFUL YOU, SOPHIA-- --WE INTEND TO MAKE IT **UP** TO YOU. WE'LL HAVE ALL OF YOUR FRIENDS, FAMILY, DANCING, MUSIC...



SURE. "ALL" OF MY FRIENDS.



AND, uh, SPEAKING OF MUSIC, YOUR DAD AND I ARE GONNA **LISTEN** TO SOME! RIGHT NOW!

UPSTAIRS!

PLEASE DON'T LET IT BE LONDONBEAT. PLEASE DON'T LET IT BE LONDONBEAT. PLEASE DON'T--

HEY, AT LEAST THEY AREN'T **FIGHTING** ALL THE TIME.



I'VE BEEN THINKIN' ABOUT YOU, GOTCHA ON MY MIND, SHA-BOW-WOW

UGH. I LIKED IT **BETTER** WHEN THEY WERE FIGHTING.



AV Club  
Miami Palmetto  
Senior High

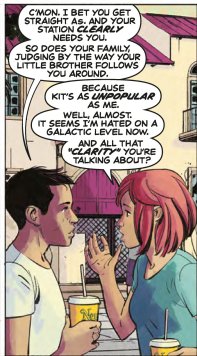


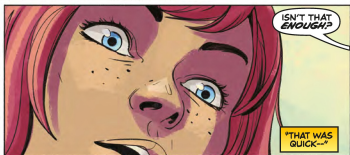
OOH!  
I'VE GOT  
ONE...













"—BUT CAN'T YOU ALSO TURN THIS ATTENTION TO THE CRIMES THAT HAPPEN IN *PLAIN SIGHT*?"

YOU SURE ABOUT THIS, GANGBUSTERS? I DON'T RECALL OUR *LAST* VISIT HERE ENDING TO WELL.

HONESTLY? NO, I'M NOT. THEN AGAIN—

—MAYBE THAT'S THE POINT.

Umoja Village  
Liberty City

SOPHIE! OVER HERE! WATCHA GOT THIS TIME?

VAMPIRES? CHUPACABRAS? MORE DISAPPEARING FIDEL CASTRO LOOK-ALIKES?

I DOUBT HAL TAUGHT YOU THIS, BUT IT'S PROFESSIONAL COURTESY FOR US JOURNALISTS TO SHARE LEADS.

THAT'S RICH. AN *ETHICS* LESSON FROM THE GUY WHO LETS SOMEONE ELSE DO ALL THE LEGWORK—  
—AND THEN STEALS THEIR SCOOP!



ACTUALLY, THERE'S NO SCOOP THIS TIME. I'M--~~WE'RE~~--HERE OUT OF RESPONSIBILITY. AND I'M *NOT* A JOURNALIST. BUT I AM LEARNING THAT THE NEWS CAN'T JUST REPORT ON A COMMUNITY.



IT HAS TO REFLECT THAT COMMUNITY, TOO.

PSSH!



ANOTHER BUNCH OF RICH WHITE PEOPLE TO THE RESCUE.

UH, I AM RIGHT HERE!

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT. I JUST THOUGHT THAT IF WMIA 7 COULD, I DON'T KNOW-- --SHINE A SPOTLIGHT ON THE POVERTY HERE, MAYBE WE'D INSPIRE OTHERS TO BRING ABOUT CHANGE.



WAIT. I RECOGNIZE YOU. YOU ONCE OFFERED TO GIVE ME A TOUR OF UMOJA VILLAGE, STARTING WITH--

--WHAT WAS IT, AGAIN? OH, YEAH. 'STARTIN' WITH DEEZ--

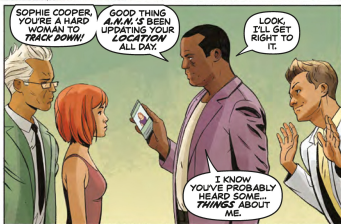
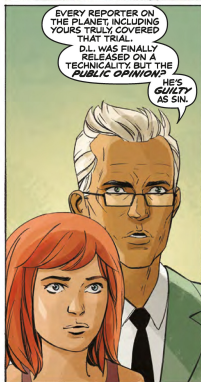
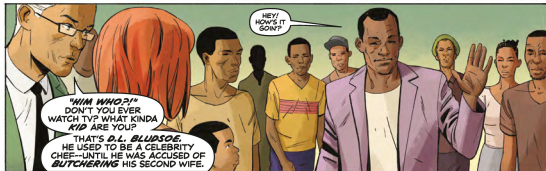


NEED TO WATCH YOUR MOUTH AROUND LADIES, HAVEN!

YO! THAT REALLY HIM?!

WHAP



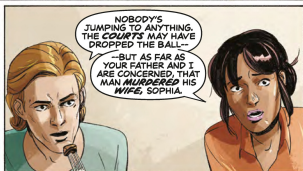


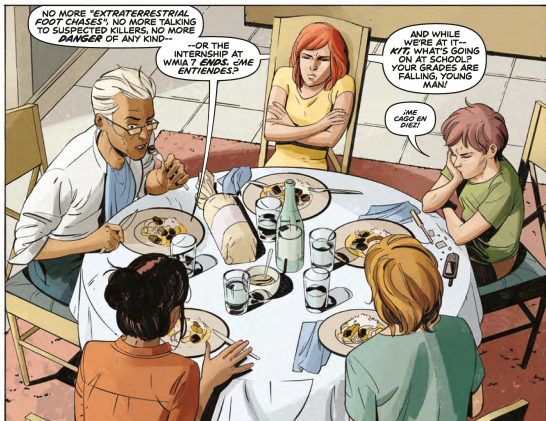


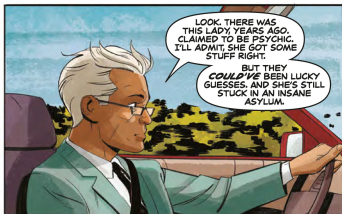
A comic book panel depicting a woman with short red hair and a red tank top being interviewed by the press. She has a serious expression. To her left, a man with white hair and glasses looks on. A large hand with a bandage on the index finger is reaching towards her. The background is filled with microphones and camera flashes, indicating a high-profile media event.

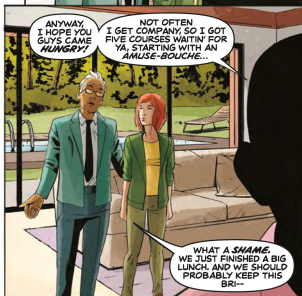
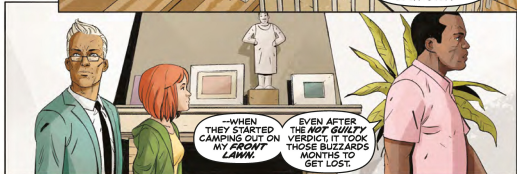
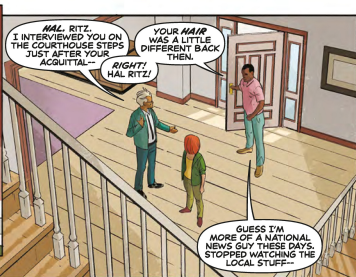
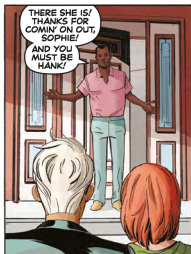
--I WANT YOU TO  
HELP ME FIND HER  
*REAL* KILLER.

ANN  
NEWS





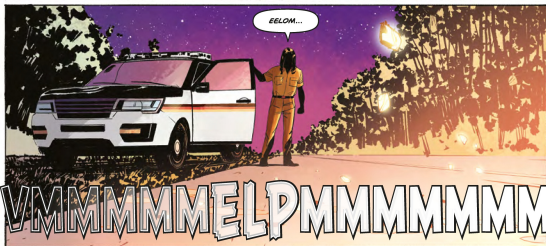














...BOBBY?



BOBBY  
TWO-TIGERS,  
IS THAT  
YOU?



HELP ME!



EASY,  
BOBBY!  
I GOT  
YOU!

D-DANGER!  
SHE'S IN  
DANGER!

WHO IS?



THE FIRE  
GIRL--

"--THE GIRL WITH  
FIRE FOR HAIR!"

WMIA 7 News Station  
North Miami Beach

--THE BLUDSOE  
LEGAL TEAM'S  
ENTIRE DEFENSE  
HINGES ON THE  
MISSING MURDER  
WEAPON--

--WITH  
INVESTIGATORS  
UNABLE TO LOCATE  
THE KNIFE IN  
QUESTION. THIS, PLUS  
TAINTED DNA  
EVIDENCE--

MAN, DOES  
THAT TAKE ME  
BACK. THEY  
NEVER *DID* FIND  
THAT KNIFE.

MY PARENTS FOLLOWED THIS  
TRIAL WHEN IT HAPPENED, BUT I  
WAS TOO LITTLE. WHAT STICKS  
OUT TO YOU, WHIRLY?

BLUDSOE  
ALWAYS SAID THE  
KILLER WAS AN  
ACQUAINTANCE.

WHAT'D  
HE CALL  
THAT  
GUY?

OH, YEAH--  
**DOC.**

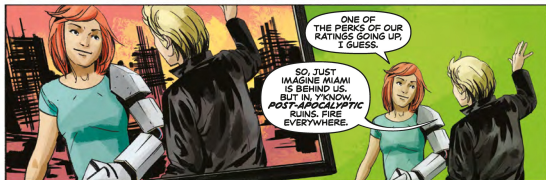
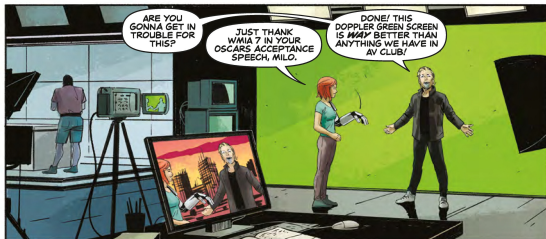
NOBODY  
KNEW HIS LAST NAME.  
IT WAS LIKE THIS **DOC** JUST  
UP AND DISAPPEARED INTO  
THIN AIR ONE DAY.

UH, SOPHIE, IT'S OKAY  
FOR YOU TO **RESEARCH**  
THAT HERE. I MEAN, I  
PERSONALLY FIND IT VERY  
**UNSETTLING.**

BUT YOU KNOW  
OUR STATION'S  
POLICY--INTERNS  
CAN'T HAVE  
**PERSONAL**  
VISITORS.

RIKKI, I'VE NEVER  
SEEN THIS KID  
BEFORE IN MY  
LIFE.







“—FRIENDS.”

## Micosukee Indian Reservation

AREN'T YOU OLD ENOUGH TO HAVE A LEARNER'S PERMIT?

SUPPOSE I SHOULD BE GLAD WE'RE NOT GOING BACK TO CHEZ BLUDSOE'S FOR A SECOND HELPING...

...OR WATCHING THE *SAYES* FOR SIGNS OF INTELLIGENT LIFE...

BOBBY DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ELSE. COLLAPSED NOT LONG AFTER I PULLED HIM FREE, HASN'T COME-TO SINCE.

THE *EMTs* WHO BROUGHT HIM HERE DID A FULL WORK UP. NOTHING WRONG WITH BOBBY, HEALTH-WISE.

OUR MEDICINE MAN'S NOW TRYING TO REVIVE HIM THROUGH MORE... *TRADITIONAL* MEANS.

YOU KNOW HOW I FEEL ABOUT *COINCIDENCES*, MISS COOPER.

THE SHADOWS MAY STILL REQUIRE YOUR ATTENTION.

AND THERE'S SOMETHING *ELSE* YOU SHOULD SEE.



THE SHOEPRINTS  
LED OFF THAT WAY, INTO  
THE *MANGROVES*. SIZE  
TWELVE. SAME COLOR  
AS THAT ROD.

SAME COLOR  
AS EVERYTHING ELSE  
YOU DISCOVERED IN THAT  
BUNKER. DID MY BEST  
TO TRACK THEM,  
BUT—



OH, COME ON,  
GANGBUSTERS. IT'S A  
*SCHOOL NIGHT!*



WE'RE NOT EVEN  
*DRESSED* FOR A MOONLIT  
FIELD TRIP THROUGH THE  
*EVERGLADES!*

SO, IF YOU THINK  
I'M FOLLOWING YOU  
IN THERE, YOU'VE GOT  
ANOTHER THING  
COMING!



JUST  
BOUGHT  
THESE AT  
DADE-  
LAND...

MISS COOPER,  
NO OFFENSE,  
BUT I WADED  
THROUGH HERE  
EARLIER.

DIDN'T  
EVEN SPOT  
A *THING*  
OUT OF  
PLACE.

WHAT  
ARE YOU  
HOPING  
TO FIND?



OH,  
I CAN BARELY  
FIND A PHONE  
CHARGER IN MY  
BEDROOM,  
SHERIFF.

LET  
ALONE A  
*TIME-TRAVELER*  
IN SIZE TWELVE  
LOAFERS.

BUT  
I FIGURED  
IT MIGHT BE  
WORTH ASKING  
*ANOTHER*  
TRIBE OF—







GEEZ,  
GANGBUSTERS,  
YOU WEREN'T  
KIDDING. THEY'RE  
HUGE!

AND INCREDIBLY *HELPFUL*.  
THEY'VE BEEN TELLING ME  
ALL KINDS OF STUFF  
ABOUT THE *BUNKER'S*  
PAST.

HERNÁN HERE  
REMEMBERS ALL  
THE WAY BACK TO '62.  
WHEN SOME WEIRDO  
TIME EXPERIMENT  
EVOLVED THEM INTO  
ALLIGATOIDS.



¿Y QUE,  
HERNÁN?  
¿COMO  
ANDA?

DE LO MAS  
BIEN, SOPHIA.  
GRACIAS A DIOS.  
¿PERO QUE HACES  
AQUÍ?

NOSOTROS  
ESTAMOS  
BUSCANDO ALGUIEN,  
PERO NO SABEMOS  
QUIEN. ALGUIEN...  
NARANJA?



QUE EXTRAÑO.  
NO HEMOS VISTO A  
NINGUNA PERSONA  
NARANJA ESTE--









GRACIAS,  
HERNÁN.

SI SON  
RESPUESTAS QUE  
USTEDES BUSCAN,  
DEBERÍAN HABLAR  
CON...

...ÉL.  
EL  
HOMBRE DE LOS  
MANGLARES.

HERNÁN SAYS  
THAT IF IT'S ANSWERS  
WE SEEK, WE SHOULD  
SPEAK WITH...

**The  
MANGROVE  
MAN.**



YOU SEEK  
A COPY THAT  
GLOWS LIKE  
THE SETTING SUN.  
AND SO MUCH  
MORE.

WHAT YOU  
SEEK IS  
A LARGER  
TRUTH.  
YOU MUST  
CHANGE THE  
WAY YOU SEE.



Y-YES.

THE MANGROVE  
MAN WILL COME  
THE MOODS FROM  
HIS LIMBS.

CLEAN THE THICK  
TIMBERS FROM THE  
GREAT STORMS.  
WILL YOU?



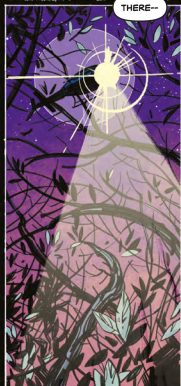
WHEN YOU LOOK  
FROM ABOVE  
THE HIGHEST  
BRANCHES...



GANGBUSTERS  
GOT YOU ON *SPEED  
DIAL*, TOO,  
WHIRLY?

THAT'S A  
TEN-FOUR.

THERE--



--DOWN  
THERE.



HE'S  
DOING  
IT.

THE  
MANGROVE  
MAN IS  
SHOWING  
US--



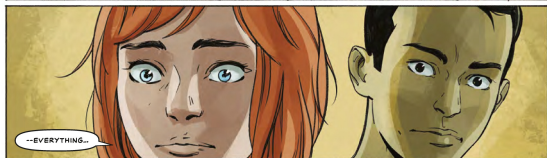


THE  
LARGER  
TRUTH





AND JUST  
WHEN YOU  
THINK YOU'VE  
SEEN--



--EVERYTHING--



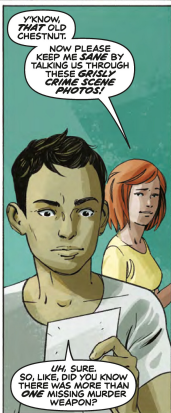
MAYBE I  
*SHOULDN'T*  
HAVE PULLED  
THESE FOR  
YOU.

I-IT'S OKAY,  
NAVY. MY FEED  
WAS ALREADY  
BLOWING UP WITH  
UNSOLICITED CORINA  
BLUDSOE PICS.  
FIGURED I SHOULD  
COMPARE THEM TO  
ACTUAL POLICE  
RECORDS.



BUT *NOW* MY FEED'S FULL  
OF--WAIT FOR IT--CROP  
CIRCLE CHATTER! WHICH IS  
SOMEHOW RELATED TO THE  
TIME BUNKER--

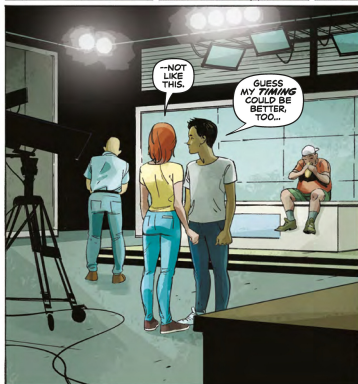
--WHICH IS  
SOMEHOW RELATED TO  
THE BOGUS CHARGES  
AGAINST MY DAD.



Y'KNOW,  
*THAT* OLD  
CHESTNUT.

NOW PLEASE  
KEEP ME *SANE* BY  
TALKING US THROUGH  
THESE *GRISLY*  
CRIME SCENE  
PHOTOS!

UH, SURE.  
SO, LIKE, DID YOU KNOW  
THERE WAS MORE THAN  
*ONE* MISSING MURDER  
WEAPON?





-THAT'S ME.



Umoja Village  
Liberty City

I MADE EVERY  
FRONT PAGE  
BACK IN THE  
DAY.

IT'S BAD ENOUGH  
TO BE ASSOCIATED  
WITH A **CRIME**.  
BUT IN YOUR  
AWKWARD  
EARLY TEENS?  
UGH.

I CAN  
RELATE, AND  
I'M SORRY IF I'M  
RE-OPENING OLD  
WOUNDS.



THEY *NEVER* CLOSED.  
SO, DON'T BE. AND I'M GLAD  
WE'RE GETTING TO TALK.  
ESPECIALLY *HERE*.

I WANTED US TO  
MEET IN UMOJA WITH A  
PURPOSE. DID YOU KNOW  
I *GREW UP* ON THIS  
BLOCK?

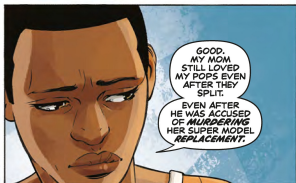
BORN AND  
RAISED BY MY DAD  
AND MOM--THAT'D  
BE HIS *FIRST* WIFE--  
BEFORE HE BECAME  
A FANCY CHEF.



THEN WE MOVED  
TO STAR ISLAND, MY FOLKS  
GOT DIVORCED, AND POPS  
"*TRADED UP*" FOR A  
YOUNGER WIFE.

*YOUR*  
PARENTS STILL  
TOGETHER?

YEAH.  
THEY...  
THEY'RE  
*GOOD*.



GOOD.  
MY MOM  
STILL LOVED  
MY POPS EVEN  
AFTER THEY  
SPLIT.

EVEN AFTER  
HE WAS ACCUSED  
OF *MURDERING*  
HER SUPER MODEL  
*REPLACEMENT*.









--OR FOR  
YOU.



TAKING A  
BREAK FROM FLYING  
SAUCERS? TO DO  
ANOTHER "THINK PIECE"  
ON THE "PLIGHT OF  
MY PEOPLE"?



NO. AND  
EVEN IF I WERE,  
I WOULDN'T USE  
THOSE WORDS,  
HAVEN.

IN THAT CASE,  
HOW ABOUT I GIVE  
YOU MY TOUR OF  
UMOJA NOW?

IN *THAT*  
DEATH TRAP?  
I'D RATHER TAKE  
MY CHANCES IN ONE  
OF THOSE FLYING  
SAUCERS.



CAN'T  
ALWAYS  
BELIEVE WHAT  
YOU SEE.

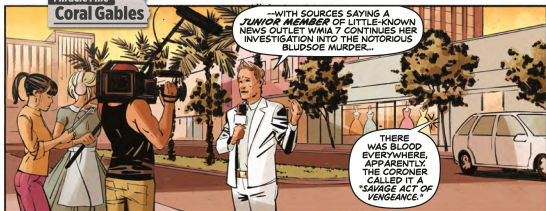


'SIDES,  
HANGING OUT  
WITH ME WILL  
ONLY IMPROVE  
YOUR STREET  
CRED.

IN CASE YOU  
HAVEN'T NOTICED,  
YOU'RE NOT TOO  
POPULAR 'ROUND  
THESE PARTS--



THEN  
WHY DON'T  
WE *CHANGE*  
THAT?



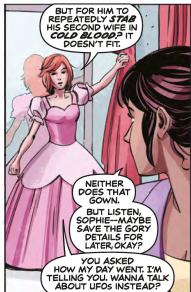
...WITH SOURCES SAYING A **JUNIOR MEMBER** OF LITTLE-KNOWN NEWS OUTLET WMIA 7 CONTINUES HER INVESTIGATION INTO THE NOTORIOUS BLUDSOE MURDER...

THERE WAS BLOOD EVERYWHERE, APPARENTLY. THE CORONER CALLED IT A "SAVAGE ACT OF VENGEANCE."



WHICH IS WEIRD, BECAUSE D.L. HAD NO **MOTIVE**. EVERYONE SAID HE AND CORINA WERE A HAPPY COUPLE.

SURE, SOME RESTAURANT EMPLOYEES TESTIFIED THAT D.L. COULD HAVE A TEMPER IN THE KITCHEN.



BUT FOR HIM TO REPEATEDLY **STAB** HIS SECOND WIFE IN **COLD BLOOD**? IT DOESN'T FIT.

NEITHER DOES THAT GOWN. BUT LISTEN, SOPHIE--MAYBE SAVE THE GORY DETAILS FOR LATER, OKAY?

YOU ASKED HOW MY DAY WENT. I'M TELLING YOU. WANNA TALK ABOUT UFOS INSTEAD?



WE'RE DRESS SHOPPING. I WAS HOPING WE'D HAVE A **NORMAL** MOTHER-DAUGHTER CONVERSATION.

ABOUT LITERALLY **ANY OTHER SUBJECTS**. EVEN SEX.

EW, MOM. NOT **THIS** AGAIN.



AY, STOP BEING SO SILLY. YOU'RE **FIFTEEN** NOW.

**BARELY!** AND--JUST--LIKE--IS IT TOO LATE TO RECONSIDER THE WHOLE **QUINCENERA** THING? PLEASE?

NOT TO SOUND UNGRATEFUL, BUT NONE OF THIS REALLY FEELS LIKE **ME**, MOM. OR EVEN AFFORDABLE...



JUST LET ME AND  
YOUR FATHER WORRY  
ABOUT THE MONEY.  
OKAY?

DAD?  
WHAT'RE  
YOU DOING  
HERE?



**YOUR ANKLE  
MONITOR--**

MAYOR  
DIAZ GOT  
ME A DAY  
PASS.  
AND A  
MEETING WITH  
THE D.A., WHICH  
WENT VERY,  
VERY WELL.

I THINK MY  
HOUSE ARREST  
MAY BE COMING  
TO AN END--JUST  
IN TIME FOR YOUR  
PARTY, SOPH.



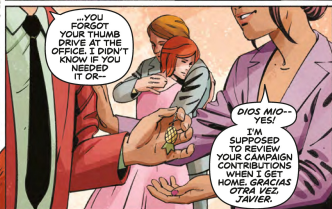
WE  
REALLY  
CAN'T  
THANK YOU  
ENOUGH,  
JAVIER.

FOR THIS AND FOR  
HELPING UNFREEZE OUR  
BANK ACCOUNTS.

POR SU  
PUESTO,  
DULCE.

AND REALLY,  
IT WAS SOPHIE'S  
**REPORTING** THAT  
MADE ALL OF THIS  
POSSIBLE.

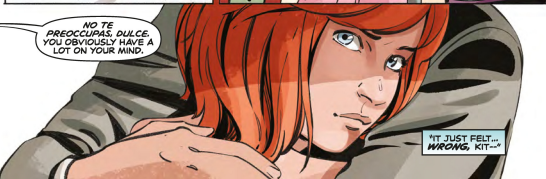
I WISH SHE  
WAS BACK INTERNING FOR  
**ME** INSTEAD OF WMIA 7!  
WHICH REMINDS ME...



...YOU  
FORGOT  
YOUR THUMB  
DRIVE AT THE  
OFFICE. I DIDN'T  
KNOW IF YOU  
NEEDED  
IT OR--

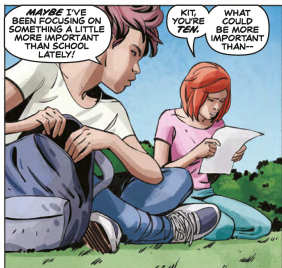
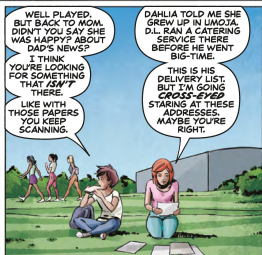
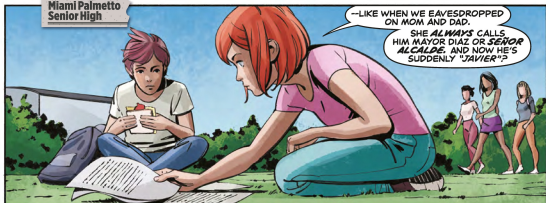
DIOS MIO--  
YES!

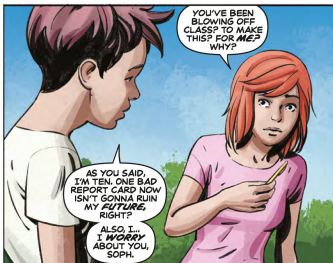
I'M  
SUPPOSED  
TO REVIEW  
YOUR CAMPAIGN  
CONTRIBUTIONS  
WHEN I GET  
HOME. GRACIAS  
OTRA VEZ,  
JAVIER.



NO TE  
PREOCCUPAS, DULCE.  
YOU OBVIOUSLY HAVE A  
LOT ON YOUR MIND.

'IT JUST FELT...  
**WRONG, KIT--**'





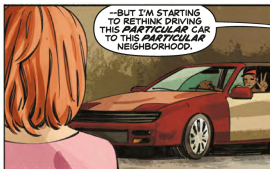




REALLY APPRECIATE THE RIDE, SAGE.

ME, TOO! THIS IS *WAY* BETTER THAN HOMEWORK! WHAT KINDA MILEAGE YOU GET ON THIS BABY?

NOT THAT I *MIND* BEING ON CONSTANT STAND-BY TO *CHAPERONE* A PAIR OF KIDS ALL OVER MIAMI--



--BUT I'M STARTING TO RETHINK DRIVING THIS *PARTICULAR* CAR TO THIS *PARTICULAR* NEIGHBORHOOD.

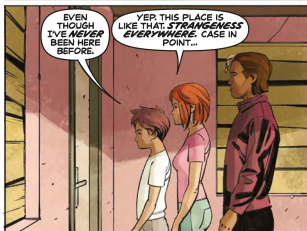


DON'T WORRY. IT'S COOL.



KIT? YOU GOOD?

...YEAH. JUST GOT A STRANGE FEELING. LIKE *DEJA VU*.



EVEN THOUGH I'VE NEVER BEEN HERE BEFORE.

YEP. THIS PLACE IS LIKE THAT. *STRANGENESS EVERYWHERE*. CASE IN POINT...

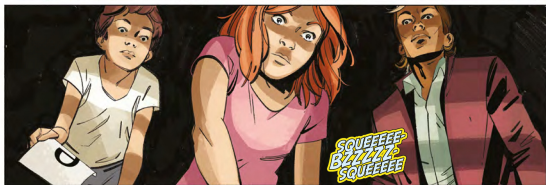
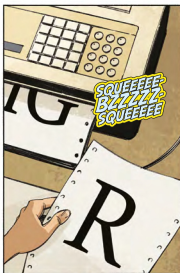


...WAIT FOR IT...WAIT FOR IT...



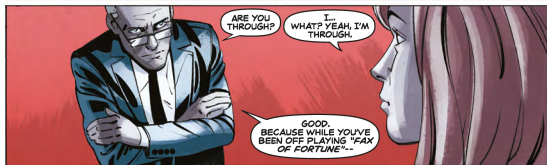
KLICK



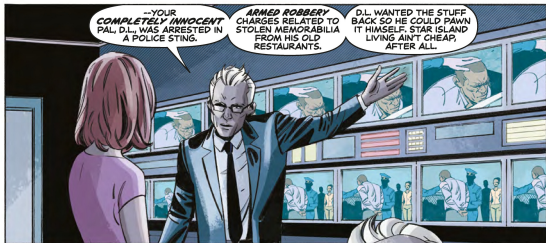




"I FOUND THE  
SMOKING GUY--"







--YOUR **COMPLETELY INNOCENT** PAL, D.L., WAS ARRESTED IN A POLICE STING.

**ARMED ROBBERY** CHARGES RELATED TO STOLEN MEMORABILIA FROM HIS OLD RESTAURANTS.

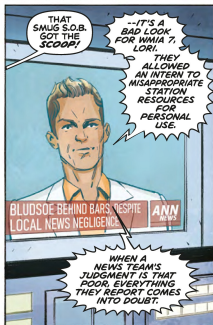
D.L. WANTED THE STUFF BACK SO HE COULD PAWN IT HIMSELF. STAR ISLAND LIVING AIN'T CHEAP, AFTER ALL.



DON'T **YOU** GET IT, GANGBUSTERS? BLUDSOE IS FACING TEN YEARS IN PRISON, **MINIMUM**.

YOUR PHANTOM FAKES WON'T HOLD UP IN **ANY** COURT OF LAW.

AND THE WORST PART?



THAT SMUG S.O.B. GOT THE **SCOOP!**

--IT'S A **BAD LOOK** FOR WMIA 7, LORI.

THEY ALLOWED AN INTERN TO MISAPPROPRIATE STATION RESOURCES FOR PERSONAL USE.

BLUDSOE BEHIND BARS, **DESPITE** LOCAL NEWS NEGLIGENCE

ANN  
NEWS

WHEN A NEWS TEAM'S JUDGMENT IS THAT **POOR**, EVERYTHING THEY REPORT COMES INTO DOUBT.



HOW ARE WE **EVER** SUPPOSED TO BELIEVE THEM AGAIN?

I TOLD YOU, KID. SOMETIMES, PEOPLE ARE JUST **PLAIN GUILTY**.



THAT'S RITZ REPORTING RULE NUMBER SEV--

**DON'T** CALL ME A **KID!**

AND **SHUT UP** ABOUT YOUR **DAMN** RULES!

WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP





—DOCTOR'S  
ORDERS.

I-I DON'T CARE  
IF SOME LAB ACCIDENT  
SPLIT YOUR BRAIN IN  
TWO, "DOC." NO MORE  
**DOUBLE-TALK!**

D.L.  
THESE CIRCLES.  
THE BUNKER.  
THE BANK. MY DAD.  
WHAT CONNECTS  
THEM? I **NEED**  
TO KNOW.

OH, IT WAS NO ACCIDENT.  
I **CHOSE** TO DIG DEEPER.  
TO HAVE **VISION**. TO  
SEE WHAT CANNOT  
BE UNSEEN.

AS WILL **YOU**.  
THAT'S WHY YOU'RE  
HERE. AND YET, THE  
DISPASSIONATE  
SCIENTIST IN ME  
MUST ASK—

—WHAT WOULD  
HAPPEN IF YOU DIED  
HERE? ALONE. A **REPORT**  
INSTEAD OF A  
**REPORTER**.

A MURDER VICTIM  
YOURSELF. WHAT WOULD  
FIND YOUR BODY FIRST?  
THE **ANIMALS**—OR THE  
**CAMERAS?**



OR WOULD  
THOSE WHO LEFT THESE  
CIRCLES CLAIM YOU?  
PERCEIVE YOU AS SOME  
**SACRIFICE** LEFT ON  
THEIR **COSMIC**  
**ALTAR?**

YOU  
ALREADY  
**DO** KNOW.  
**HAVE**  
KNOWN. WILL  
**ALWAYS**  
KNOW.  
SOON.

ALL YOU  
REALLY  
NEED IS TO  
GIVE IT—

**WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP**

—TIME.

"WHAT **SCARES**  
YOU, SOPHIE?"

"AFTER EVERYTHING YOU'VE WITNESSED SO FAR--"

BLUDSON

--CAN ANYTHING SCARE YOU?

YOU'D BE SURPRISED. OR MAYBE NOT.

I'M GLAD YOU TEXTED, BUT I CAN'T HELP FEELING THIS IS MY FAULT.

IF I HADN'T SAID "YES" TO YOUR DAD--

POPS BROUGHT THIS ON HIMSELF. ALWAYS DOES. YOU'RE JUST LUCKY HE DIDN'T PULL YOU DOWN WITH HIM.

STILL, I'M SURE WE'LL CATCH WHOEVER DID THIS, DAHLIA. WMIA 7 CAN REQUEST TRAFFIC CAMERA FOOTAGE.

IN THE MEANTIME, MAYBE YOU SHOULDN'T STAY HERE WHEN IT'S...LIKE THIS. MAYBE YOU CAN GO BE WITH--

BE WITH WHO? ALL MY FAMILY'S EITHER DEAD OR IN JAIL. AND MY FRIENDS...

...WHAT FRIENDS?

WHAT KINDA PERSON WOULD WANT TO BE SEEN WITH ME?

THE ONLY ONE WHO EVER DID--

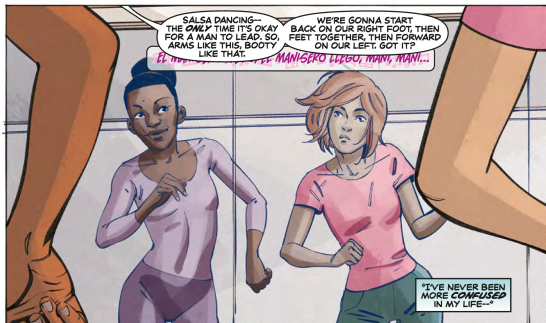
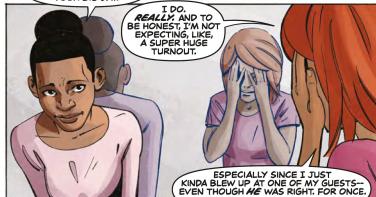
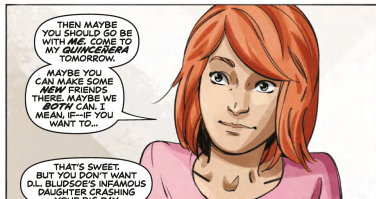
--WAS AMY. BUT EVEN SHE... HAD PROBLEMS. SHE--SHE O.D.-ED. THE DAY AFTER SOMEONE USED POPS' KNIVES TO...TO...

GOD, DAHLIA. THAT'S AWFUL. THIS GIRL--AMY-- SHE COULD'VE BEEN YOUR SISTER.

SHE PRACTICALLY WAS. BUT--

--PILLS. PLUS PRESSURE. PERFORMANCES.

HAPPENS A LOT IN DANCE ACADEMIES.







"...AND LET  
SOMEBODY TAKE  
YOUR PICTURE  
FOR A CHANGE!"







FELICIDADES, GANGBUSTERS.



SOUNDS LIKE AN **UP-TEMPO** NUMBER'S UP NEXT.

OH. DID YOU WANT TO--?

MY KNEE'S A LITTLE TRICKY SINCE OUR **FENDER BENDER** WITH THAT DISAPPEARING/REAPPEARING ROAD BLOCK. BUT SOMETHING TELLS ME--



--YOU **WON'T** BE SITTING THIS ONE OUT.

**MILO?** YOU KNOW HOW TO **SALSA?**





SI.

TU AMOR ES UN  
PERIÓDICO DE AYER

QUE NADIE MAS  
PROCURA YA LEER

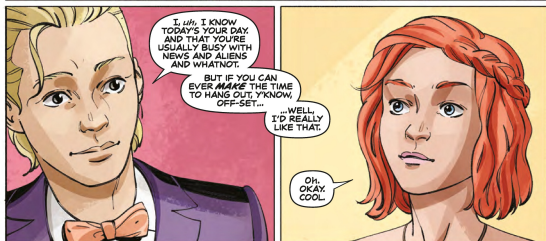
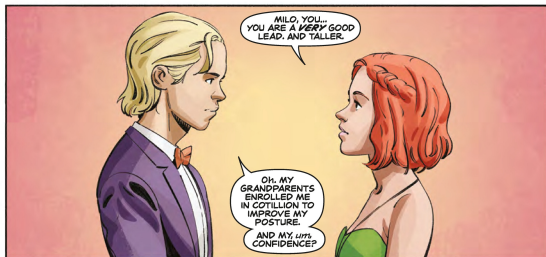
SENSACIONAL CUANDO  
SALIO EN LA MADRUGADA  
A MEDIO DIA YA NOTICIA  
CONFIRMADA

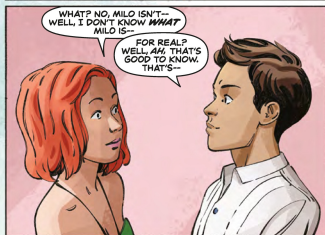
Y EN LA TARDE  
MATERIA OLVIDADA

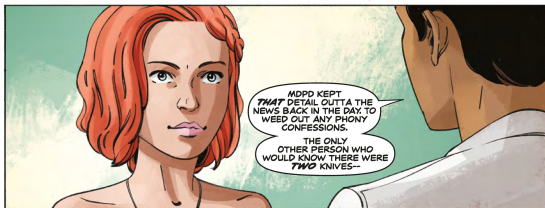
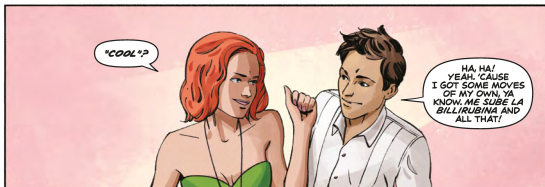
TU AMOR ES UN  
PERIÓDICO QUE SE  
OLVIDA













--IS  
THE REAL  
KILLER.



COOPER?  
¿QUÉ  
PASAP

NOW YOU  
GOT IT--



--SEE?  
WHAT'D I TELL  
YOU? I CAN  
TEACH ANYONE  
TO MOVE!

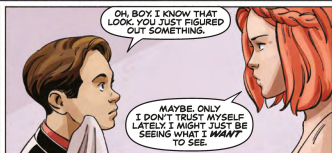
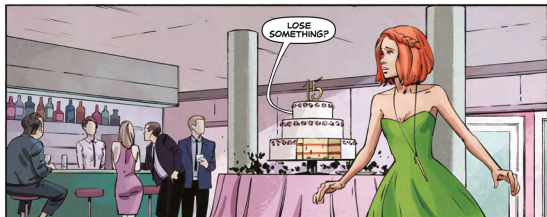


I...  
I NEED TO  
FIND HAL  
RIGHT  
NOW.

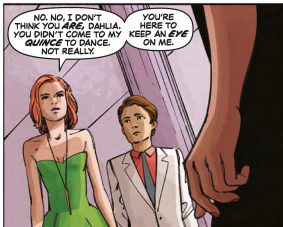
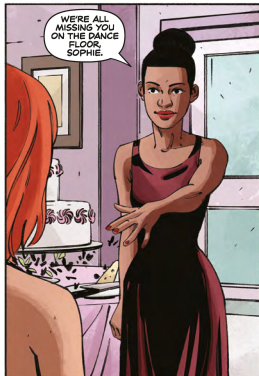


DON'T SEE HIM OUT  
HERE. I'LL GO  
CHECK THE MEN'S  
ROOM.

I'LL TAKE  
THE BAR.









AND I CAN'T  
PROVE IT--NOT YET,  
ANYWAY--BUT I'M THINKING  
AMY WAS YOUR *ACUSA*. YOU  
CAN TEACH ANYONE TO  
MOVE, RIGHT?

SO YOU TAUGHT HER  
TO MOVE LIKE *YOU*--  
*ACT* LIKE YOU AT YOUR  
DANCE ACADEMY--SINCE  
SHE ALREADY *LOOKED*  
LIKE YOU.



THAT FREED YOU  
UP TO COME BACK TO  
MIAMI. TO--I CAN'T EVEN  
SAY THE REST. BUT  
YOU *KNOW* IT.

AND WHEN AMY  
EVENTUALLY REALIZED  
HER PART IN ALL OF THIS,  
IT KILLED HER, TOO.

IT WASN'T  
PILLS PLUS PRESSURE.  
IT WAS *GUILT*.



YOU THINK  
YOU'RE THE *FIRST*  
PERSON TO ACCUSE  
ME OF BEING THE  
'REAL KILLER'?

YOU THINK  
I HAVEN'T BEEN CALLED  
WORSE BY ANONYMOUS  
TROLLS HIDING BEHIND  
SCREEN NAMES?



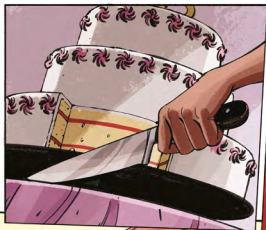
NO, I DON'T.  
BUT I *DO* KNOW HOW  
PEOPLE REACT WHEN  
THEY'RE BLAMED OF A  
CRIME THEY DIDN'T  
COMMIT.

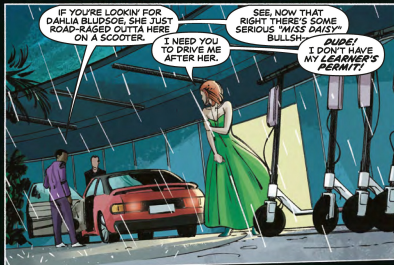
THEY GET  
EMOTIONAL. *ANGRY*.  
THEY NEVER STOP  
SAYING THEY'RE  
INNOCENT.

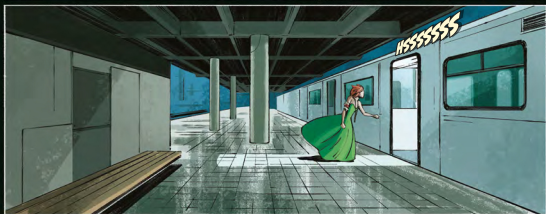
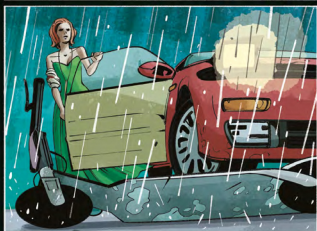
LIKE  
MY DAD DID.  
LIKE *YOURS*.



BUT  
NOT LIKE  
*YOU*.



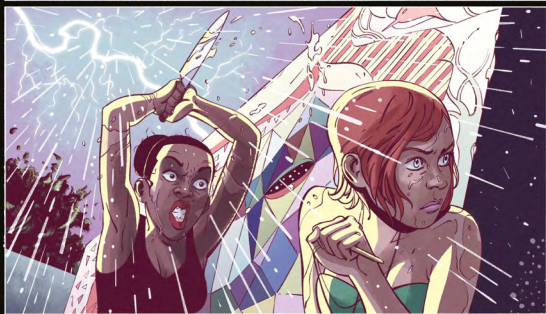
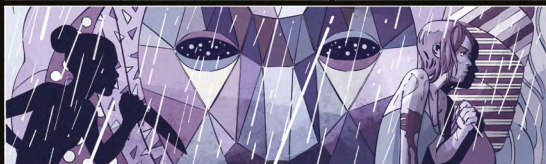
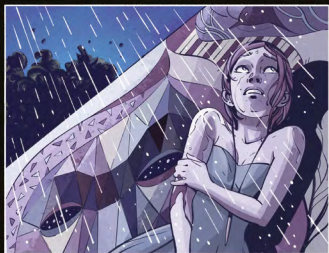


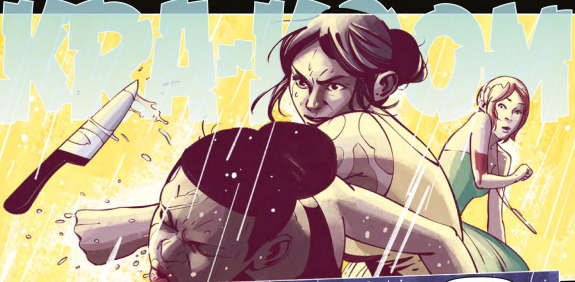












¡QUE NI SE  
TE OCURRA DE  
LEVANTARLE UNA  
MANO A NINGUNO  
DE MIS HITOS!

SOPH!  
IT'S ALL RIGHT!  
WE'RE HERE...

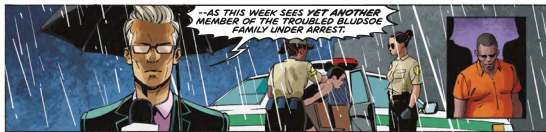
I SEE MY PATENTED  
HABANERO PEPPER  
SPRAY WORKED AS WELL  
AS THE GPS.

HAL RAN EVERY  
RED LIGHT IN  
MIAMI TO FOLLOW  
YOUR SIGNAL.

**WEE-000 WEE-000 WEE-000**

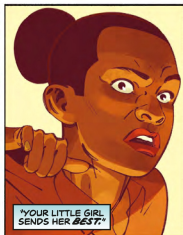
AND I'M  
MAKING A LITTLE  
SIGNAL OF MY  
OWN. THE POLICE  
WON'T BE FAR  
BEHIND...

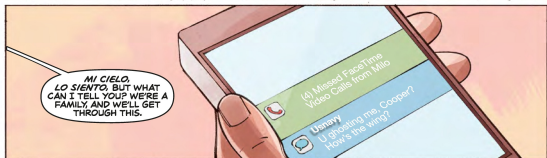
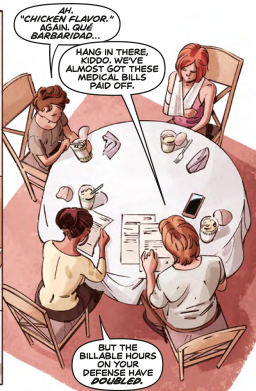
"WE ARE **FIRST** ON THE SCENE IN  
WYNWOOD WITH A WMIA 7 **EXCLUSIVE**--"

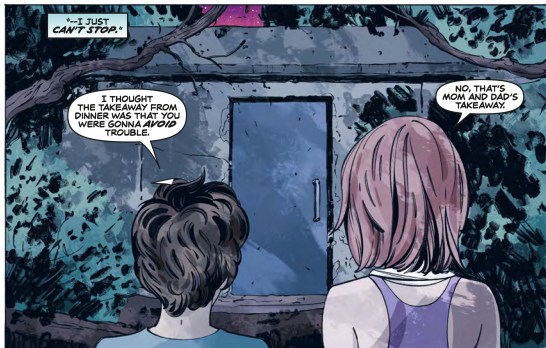
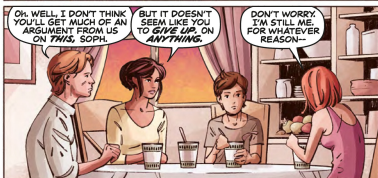














MINE  
IS—



--DIG  
DEEPER.

SPLASH



SO NOW  
YOU'RE TAKING  
LIFE ADVICE FROM  
DOCTOR EVIL EYES?  
SOPH, THAT STORM  
SURGE **FLOODED**  
THIS BUNKER.

WHATEVER'S  
UNDERNEATH  
IS COMPLETELY  
SUBMERGED.  
YOU KNOW I'M  
RIGHT.



THIS ISN'T  
ABOUT THAT RIGHT,  
WRONG...IT DOESN'T  
MATTER.

THIS IS  
ABOUT **FACTS**.  
ABOUT FOLLOWING  
THEM **WHEREVER**  
THEY LEAD, EVEN  
WHEN IT'S  
SCARY.

CLIK!  
CLIK!

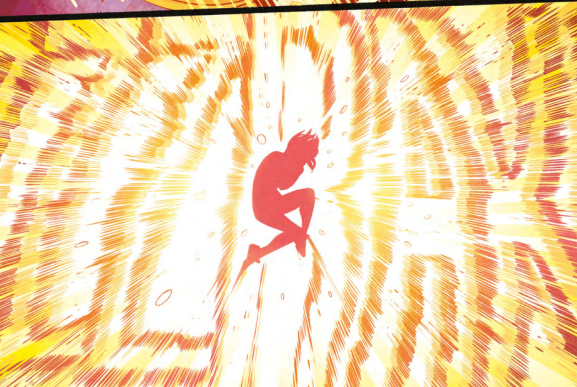


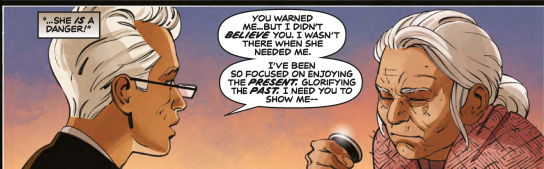
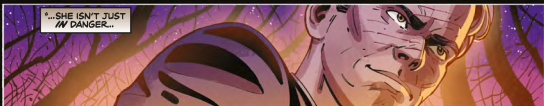
SPLASH





**MMMMZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZ**





"...THE FUTURE."

SOPHIE!  
PLEASE BE OKAY,  
SOPH! PLEASE! YOU  
WERE DOWN THERE  
SO LONG!



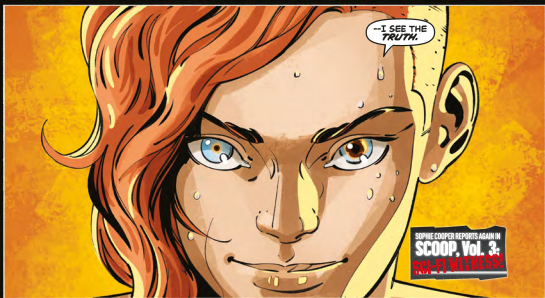
TELL ME IF  
YOU'RE HAVING  
SHORTNESS OF BREATH  
OR A HEADACHE OR  
BLURRED VISION  
OR--

KIT.

IT'S OKAY.  
I AM OKAY.  
ESPECIALLY  
MY VISION.  
FINALLY--



--I SEE THE  
TRUTH.



SOPHIE COOPER REPORTS AGAIN IN  
**SCOOP, Vol. 3:**  
**SOPHIE WITNESS!**



# EVIDENCE

LIVE

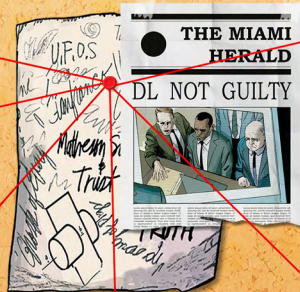
7:59 ET

**FOX**

.50 ▲ .06

MS & T (MST) 24K@25.88 ▲ .41





D i G D E e P e R

# " THE UNUSUAL



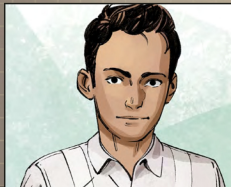
**SOPHIE COOPER**

Sophie Cooper is a spirited investigator who stumbled into the internship at WMIA 7 in a bid to prove her father's innocence in the face of embezzlement charges. What she's found, instead, is a web of conspiracy that involves aliens, UFOs, time travel and a race of Alligatoids who live in the Everglades. She'll stop at nothing to find the truth...even if the truth hurts.



**HAL RITZ (RITZENHAUSER)**

A television reporter for WMIA 7 with a long resume he can't wait to tell you about, Hal is proud to call Sophie his protégé...even if he's less happy about where that has led him (into fights with his boss, out into the Everglades, facing his legacy and what it means to be a journalist...you get the idea).



**USNAVY**

and Sophie have a connection as fellow truth seekers (and perhaps something more) with Usnavy happy to help puzzle out solutions with Sophie...so long as he also gets those mocha fraps to his boss on time!



**DOCTOR "DOC" WACHS**

er than he was involved with time travel experiments beginning in the 1960s and that he seems to be of two minds about everything.

# SUSPECTS "



**KIT COOPER**

Kit is Sophie's younger brother—always joining on her adventures, asking annoying questions, and sometimes creating unique inventions like the Pen-Dant for Sophie to use on her investigations.



**MILO**

A film nerd at heart, Milo has stayed true as Sophie's friend throughout her family's many scandals, despite the fact that the rest of the student body at Miami Palmetto Senior High have turned their backs on the Cooper family.



**CARSON & DULCE COOPER**

Mr. and Mrs. Cooper are Sophie and Kit's proud parents, even if their kids are always getting into trouble. Carson is under house arrest for alleged embezzlement, even though Sophie uncovered evidence suggesting that he might not be so guilty after all. Dulce works long hours as an attorney for the Mayor of Miami, Javier Diaz, hoping to help get him reelected...and serving as the Cooper family's primary breadwinner.



**THE BANKER**

Sophie and Kit after they discovered the Everglades bunker and the time travel experiments therein, the Banker works for the very same bank that accused Carson of embezzlement. Even stranger, the Banker has been around since the 1960s, yet he hasn't aged a day. Sophie and Kit thought the Banker was gone for good... but like a bad penny, it looks like he's turned up again.

# CREATOR BIOS



## **RICHARD ASHLEY HAMILTON**

Is an award-winning Cuban-American (no, really) writer best known for his storytelling across many DreamWorks Animation franchises including *How To Train Your Dragon* and Guillermo Del Toro's *Tales of Arcadia*. But in his heart, Richard remains a lifelong comic book fan and has created titles for Dark Horse, AfterShock, Insight, Papercutz, and more. He currently writes *Scoop* for Mad Cave Studios/Maverick, and his middle-grade horror title, *Fearbook Club*, was named a 2022 Junior Library Guild Official Selection.

## **PABLO ANDRÉS**

After finishing his illustration studies in Buenos Aires, Pablo Andrés moved to Spain, where he began drawing comics and where he currently resides. His work has been published in Dark Horse Comics, Disney Comics, Insight Comics, Hugo Publishing and Z2 Comics. He is co-creator of the Webtoon *Summer Lights*, which was awarded a special mention.



## **SIMON ROBINS**

Is based in the bushy surrounds of regional Victoria in Australia. With a focus on the psychology and storytelling potential of color, Simon strives to push the limits of the medium and explore new and creative approaches to coloring comics. With seven years as a professional colorist, he has worked with both major mainstream and independent publishers and creators. He also occasionally letters comics and loves the unseen craft involved in this often under-recognized element of comic creation.

## **DAVE LANPHEAR**

Is an award-winning cartoonist, comic book letterer, art director and story producer. He was one of the creative team on *Archaia's Return of the Dapper Men* which was awarded two Eisner Awards. Notable books Lanphear is known for lettering include *Batman: The Long Halloween*, *Superman '78*, *Mighty Avengers*, *Wonder Woman*, *Thunderbolts*, *Danger Girl*, *X-Men/WildCATS*, *Fraggle Rock*, *will.i.am's Zombie Nation*, and *FutureQuest*. He's online at @Artmonkeys\_Studios on Instagram, and @artmonkeys everywhere else.



# SCOOP™

#SCIFIWITNESS



**VOL. 3**  
**COMING SOON**



**MAVERICK**



# SCOOP

#BuriedLeads

Sophie Cooper's life has only gotten more complicated as she splits her days between school (where she's as unpopular as ever), her internship at news station WMIA 7 (where she fields even more tips about Miami's paranormal activity), and planning her upcoming Quinceañera.

But when a disgraced celebrity chef hears how Sophie has been proving her father's innocence, the forsaken foodie makes a desperate plea — he needs Sophie to find out who really murdered his ex-wife.

Now Sophie must hunt through the past...while someone else hunts her in the present. This whodunit leads Sophie through dance-offs, crop circles and a cat-and-mouse chase across the colorful, yet treacherous, streets of the Wynwood district. As she reveals the real killer, Sophie discovers a startling new truth about herself...one which threatens to doom the teen journalist once and for all.

